



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

*[Handwritten signature]*

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/555,255      | 07/26/2002  | Mitsuhiro Higashi    | 1155-0198P          | 4222             |

7590 06/09/2005

Birch Stewart  
Kolasch & Birch, LLP  
PO Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

SHIPPEN, MICHAEL L

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

1621

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|   |                        |                     |  |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Response to Rule 312 Communication</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|   | 09/555,255             | HIGASHI ET AL.      |  |
|   | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|   | MICHAEL L. SHIPPEN     | 1621                |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

1. ☒ The amendment filed on 21 April 2005 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

a) ☒ entered.

b) ☐ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.

c) ☐ disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.

Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.

d) ☐ disapproved. See explanation below.

e) ☐ entered in part. See explanation below.



MICHAEL L. SHIPPEN  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 1621

20